and first 10 months of 1999-2000 (April, 1999—January, 2000) was Rs. 2.70 crores, Rs. 1.59 crores and Rs. 1.76 crores respectively.

Progress in alleviating people below poverty line

*107. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over thirty per cent of the population continue to live below the poverty line and that this amounts to almost 350 million people;

(b) whether Government had listed several basic minimum services in 1996 which were literacy education, primary health and care, safe drinking water, nutritional security shelter for the poor, road connections and an effective and efficient public distribution system; and

(c) how far Government have progressed towards achieving these?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) According to the latest available estimates, 35.97% of the population or 320.4 million were living below the poverty line in 1993-94.

(b) In a conference of Chief Ministers held in July, 1996 seven Basic Services were identified for priority attention. The Services are Safe Drinking Water, Primary Health Care, Universal Primary Education, Shelter for the Poor, connectivity to all unconnected villages and habitations, Nutrition, and Streamlining Public Distribution System with a focus on the Poor. The objective of the programme was to assist the States to provide all the people living both in rural and urban areas of the country access to these seven Basic Services in a time-bound manner.

(c) The Planning Commission allocated additional Central

assistance (ACA) for these seven Basic Minimum Services (BMS). The year-wise allocation of ACA made for BMS were Rs. 2244 crores in 1996-97, Rs. 2970 crores in 1997-98, Rs. 3410 crores in 1998-99 and Rs. 3700 crores in 1999-2000. The States and Union Territories have reported that the entire amount of ACA allocated for the BMS during the last three years has been fully utilized. In the Central Government's Budget 2000-2001, the ACA for BMS has been replaced by providing ACA for a new programme called Pradhan Mantri's Gramoday Yojana (PMGY).

Seizure of Indian Fishing Boats by Pakistan Marine Security Force

e108. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan Marine Security Force (PMSF) seized nine Indian fishing boats near Okha;

(b) whether PMSF captured these boats in the Indian waters;

(c) if so, whether Government have taken up the matter with the Pakistan Government; and

(d) if so, what action Government proposes to take to prevent such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) According to available information 12 fishing boats have been captured by Pakistan Marine Security Agency from/off the Okha/Jakhau area.

(b) The location of the seizure is not presently known.

(c) and (d) Government take up all cases of seizure of Indian fishing boats with Pakistan with a view to securing the release and repatriation of the boats and their crew members and continues to urge security agencies to maintain vigilance.